MARVEL

#8

NICK SPENCER

JESÚS SAIZ

Steve ★ Rogers CAPTAIN AMERICA®

TORQUE

Super-Soldier. Avenger. Agent of Hydra. He is...

Steve ★ Rogers
CAPTAIN AMERICA

Steve Rogers' reality has been secretly rewritten by Kobik, a sentient Cosmic Cube acting under the influence of the Red Skull. In Steve's new history, a Hydra agent named Elisa Sinclair enrolled Steve in a school where he trained to be a Hydra soldier and met his best friend, Helmut Zemo. Now, Captain America is completely dedicated to Hydra's ideals and is plotting in secret to spread them throughout the world.

Central to Captain America's plans is Avril Kincaid, a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent who was given the cosmic-powered Quasar gauntlets while trying to apprehend Kobik and stop the prison riot at Pleasant Hill. As the new Quasar, Avril is one of the most powerful players on the board--but what does Steve want with her?

NICK SPENCER ★ WRITER

JESÚS SAIZ ★ ARTIST

VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA ★ LETTERING

ELIZABETH TORQUE ★ COVER

CARLOS LAO ★ PRODUCTION DESIGN

MIKE DEODATO JR. & FRANK MARTIN ★ VARIANT COVER

ALANNA SMITH ★ ASSISTANT EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT ★ EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO ★ EDITOR IN CHIEF JOE QUESADA ★ CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER DAN BUCKLEY ★ PUBLISHER ALAN FINE ★ EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Captain America created by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby

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"WE ALL MAKE CHOICES.

"THEY CHANGE OUR TRAJECTORIES. ALTER OUR DESTINIES. AND NO MATTER WHAT WE DO--

MONTANA.

"--THEY LEAVE US WITH REGRETS."

WHAT I'M ASKING IS, CAN WE GET THROUGH ***THREE MORE MONTHS*** WITH IT? BECAUSE A BIG EQUIPMENT PURCHASE ON MY FINANCIALS THIS QUARTER, THAT'S TRICKY. I.R.S.-WISE.

I DUNNO, MAN. SHE'S COUGHING.

KYLE!

PHONE!

I GOTTA GET THIS. JUST--WORK YOUR MAGIC, ALL RIGHT? THREE MONTHS.

IT'S ***HIM. AGAIN.***

I FIGURED.

HE'S CALLING EVERY DAY.

WITH WHAT HE'S PAYING, HE CAN CALL EVERY ***HOUR*** IF HE WANTS.

YELLO.

AH, YES, SIR--GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU.

UH, NO, I WAS ABOUT TO GO BACK TO THE GREENHOUSE AND CHECK FOR MYSELF-- OH, OF COURSE, I CAN DO IT ***RIGHT NOW,*** TAKE THE PHONE WITH ME--

WHY, YES, SIR--SINCE YOU ASKED, IT ***IS*** A BEAUTIFUL DAY.

NOTHING BUT BLUE SKY AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE...

"I'VE LEARNED TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE CHOICES I'VE MADE--"

--BUT NOW YOU HAVE ONE OF YOUR OWN TO MAKE.

MAYBE THE MOST ***DIFFICULT*** ONE YOU'LL EVER FACE.

AND I UNDERSTAND--EVERYTHING YOU KNOW, EVERYTHING YOU BELIEVE--WILL BE TELLING YOU TO GO ONE WAY.

I'M HOPING, THOUGH, THAT THERE'S ***ANOTHER*** VOICE INSIDE YOU. YOU MIGHT HAVE TO LISTEN HARD FOR IT, BUT IF YOU DO--IT'LL TELL YOU TO GO AGAINST YOUR INSTINCTS. TO GO DOWN THE OTHER PATH.

BECAUSE THE TRUTH?

"THE TRUTH IS NOT SOMETHING THAT REMAINS HIDDEN FOR LONG."

THE KEEP. 1936.

HURRY UP, HELMUT--*HFF HFF*--ONLY A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE NEW GUARD SHOWS UP--WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT BEFORE THE SHIFT CHANGE--

EASY FOR ***YOU*** TO SAY, MY FRIEND--

--YOU'RE NOT THE ONE CARRYING THE LOOT.

THE DARE WAS TO RAID FENHOFF'S LIQUOR CABINET AND THROW IT ALL IN THE LAKE--YOU REALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM THOSE GUYS IF WE DON'T PULL IT OFF? AND YOU ***KNOW*** WHAT THEY'LL SAY IF WE DON'T MAKE IT.

SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR ***ASTHMA?***

OR SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR ***HEIGHT--***

OOF!

OH, MY CHILD--I AM AFRAID YOU HAVE RUINED YOUR OWN SURPRISE--

IT'S *CHRISTMAS* ALL OVER AGAIN.

I--I--

PAPA!

IS IT REALLY YOU?!

I SHOULD ASK YOU THE *SAME,* LITTLE HELMUT. I THOUGHT I HAD JUST ARRIVED TO FIND TWO BURGLARS ON OUR PREMISES--

AND THIS MUST BE STEVEN, YES? THE FRIEND YOU KEEP TELLING ME ABOUT IN ALL YOUR LETTERS--

--ONE MUCH TALLER THAN MY OWN SON.

I-IT'S AN *HONOR,* SIR--

YOU *BET* IT IS. STEVE, MEET MY FATHER, *BARON HEINRICH ZEMO THE TWELFTH*--

--THE *SMARTEST MAN IN THE WORLD!*

I TAKE IT YOU TWO WERE IN THE MIDST OF A HIGHLY CLASSIFIED OPERATION, THEN?

JUST A LITTLE ***PRANK,*** FATHER. LIKE YOU USED TO DO--

HH--AND IT SEEMS YOU HAD SOME SUCCESS. I WILL EXPECT A FULL EXPLANATION IN THE MORNING--

NOW, YOU BOTH MUST BE PAST YOUR CURFEW, YES? THIS PLACE SLEEPS HEAVILY. I WILL SEE YOU TO YOUR ROOM--AND THIS LITTLE EXCURSION WILL REMAIN OUR SECRET.

BUT I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU!

TOMORROW, HELMUT. I HAVE MISSED YOU AS WELL! IN THIS MOMENT, THOUGH, I AM REQUIRED ***ELSEWHERE.***

WHY ARE YOU HERE, PAPA? I MEAN, I AM ***GLAD,*** BUT--IS MOTHER--

SHE IS FINE. BACK IN LEIPZIG. NO, I AM HERE TO MEET WITH YOUR TEACHERS. WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS.

WHY? DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

NO, SON--THIS IS ABOUT YOUR ***BIRTHRIGHT.***

I COME BEARING NEWS, YOU SEE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHANGES BACK IN OUR HOMELAND, HELMUT--

"WAR APPROACHES."

NOW.

HOLD...

HOLD...

OKAY, ALPHA FLIGHT--

--LIGHT 'EM UP!

AHOY, ALPHA FLIGHT STATION!

HOW ARE WE DOING IN THERE, CAP?!

I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HAVING A MEETING!

YEAH, THAT'S *MY* FAULT--

--APPARENTLY, MY TIMING? IT SUCKS.

DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP **TOO MUCH,** HILL.

PLENTY OF-- ***UNFF***--BLAME TO GO AROUND THESE DAYS.

UGLY S.O.B., AREN'T YOU?

"AVRIL?"

S.H.I.E.L.D. TRAINING COMPOUND
LOCATION CLASSIFIED.

AVRIL--YOU OKAY?

Y-YEAH... SORRY, WENDELL, I JUST--

YOU *SAW* SOMETHING.

I *THINK* SO, YEAH.

WHAT WAS IT?

"SOME KIND OF ATTACK--IN SPACE. CAPTAIN AMERICA IS THERE. SO IS CAPTAIN MARVEL... AND DIRECTOR HILL."

THAT'S GOOD--YOU'RE LEARNING TO HARNESS IT PRETTY WELL.

THE *COSMIC AWARENESS?*

THINK OF IT AS AN EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM JUST FOR YOU--

--THE *PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.*

OKAY, NOT GONNA LIE, THE JOB STARTS TO SOUND A LITTLE INTIMIDATING WHEN YOU CALL IT THAT.

HEY, THAT'S WHAT *QUASAR* IS.

"THAT'S WHAT YOU SIGNED UP FOR WHEN YOU TOOK THE BANDS FROM ME BACK IN PLEASANT HILL--"

--AND I HAVE NO DOUBT YOU'RE UP TO THE TASK.

WELL, IF THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK--MAYBE I CAN USE THE AWARENESS TO FIND SOME WAY TO ***HELP*** THEM--

NO--NO, I'M SURE THEY HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL--YOU NEED TO ***PACE YOURSELF.***

THE AWARENESS IS A VERY POWERFUL THING. ***TOO*** POWERFUL. IT SHOULD ONLY BE USED SPARINGLY. I FORGOT THAT ONCE, AND I'M STILL PAYING THE PRICE.

THE TRUTH IS, I'D THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN RID OF IT ALREADY, THAT ***EON*** HAD TAKEN IT FROM ME--

EON IS THE WEIRD TREE-EYEBALL DUDE THAT HIRED YOU, RIGHT?

THAT'S THE ONE. BUT IT TURNS OUT IT WAS JUST DORMANT FOR A WHILE. AND WHEN IT CAME BACK--IT DAMN NEAR COST ME MY MIND.

I ALWAYS DO THAT--FORGET ABOUT POWERS I HAVE, I MEAN. LIKE THAT TIME I ACCIDENTALLY GAVE THE STAR BRAND TO MY EX-GIRLFRIEND...

YOU'RE A STRANGE GUY, WENDELL.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA. NOW, YOU GET BACK TO PRACTICING MAKING QUANTUM CONSTRUCTS, I'M GOING TO GO VERIFY YOUR LITTLE ACID TRIP--

"--MAKE SURE IT WASN'T JUST A BAD DREAM."

VERY WELL--

--SO IT IS *DECIDED*, THEN.

HYDRA WILL ALIGN ITSELF WITH GERMANY AND THE AXIS POWERS IN THE BATTLE TO COME.

WE WILL INFILTRATE THEIR RANKS AND INSTALL OUR OWN LIEUTENANTS, WHO WILL THEN USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO FORGE A FORMAL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REICH AND--

NOT SO *FAST*, BARON ZEMO--

--I STILL HAVE SOME CONCERNS.

ELISA, PLEASE, FOR GOD'S SAKE...

NO, DOCTOR FENHOFF, I WILL BE HEARD. LEST YOU FORGET, IT'S MY CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE THULE SOCIETY THAT YOU'LL NEED IN ORDER TO REALIZE THIS GLORIOUS PLAN OF YOURS--

WHICH IS *EXACTLY* WHY YOU OF *ALL* OF US SHOULD SEE THE BENEFIT TO WHAT WE SEEK. THE FÜHRER IS NOT JUST BUILDING AN ARMY THE LIKES OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN--

--HE IS ASSEMBLING RELICS OF THE DARK ARTS AND THE LOST GODS. HE IS THE ONE WE'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR--

NO, BARON--

--HE IS A POWER-HUNGRY MADMAN WITH A BLOODLUST THAT WILL NOT BE SATED. AND IF WE ALIGN OURSELVES WITH HIM, IT WILL CONSUME US AS WELL.

YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY *BELIEVE* THAT--

DO NOT QUESTION WHAT I BELIEVE, DOCTOR. IT IS NOT A MATTER OF CONJECTURE, BUT OF KNOWLEDGE.

ELISA...

...THE *SIGHT*-- HAS IT *TOLD* YOU SOMETHING? HAS IT SHOWN YOU WHERE THIS PATH LEADS?

THE FUTURE IS UNCLEAR-- MOSTLY HIDDEN FROM ME. BUT WHAT *LITTLE* I CAN SEE OF IT--I ONLY SEE PAIN AND SUFFERING.

THAT IS THE SUFFERING OF OUR ***ENEMIES,*** AS THEY'RE CRUSHED BY NAZI TANKS!

OUR ENEMIES ARE MUCH GREATER THAN THESE PITIFUL, MISGUIDED NATION-STATES, BARON--

YES, AND THAT'S PRECISELY MY POINT! KRAKEN-- I'VE BEEN OFFERED A HIGH-RANKING POSITION WITHIN THEIR SCIENCE DIVISION.

I'VE SEEN THEIR PLANS. GREAT AND POWERFUL WEAPONS, SUPER-SOLDIERS--JUST WHAT WE'LL NEED WHEN THE ANCIENT THREATS REAR THEIR HEADS.

HE'S RIGHT, WHITEHALL--AND IF THE FÜHRER DOES TURN OUT TO BE AS... ***UNSAVORY*** AS ELISA SUGGESTS, WHO IS TO SAY WE DON'T SIMPLY REMOVE HIM FROM POWER WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT?

LET HIM BUILD AN EMPIRE ACROSS EUROPE AND THEN CLAIM IT FOR OUR OWN. HE IS A MEANS TO AN END.

IT'S ***TRUE,*** KRAKEN. SURELY YOU MUST SEE--THIS IS WHY YOU CAME BACK FROM THE EAST. EVERYTHING WE HAVE BUILT HERE, EVERYTHING WE HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR, IT ALL LEADS US TO THIS.

THIS IS WHAT THE ***PROPHECIES*** FORETOLD.

DANIEL...

I'M SORRY, ELISA. BUT HE'S ***RIGHT.*** THERE IS NO OTHER WAY--

--THIS IS WHAT WE'RE MEANT TO DO.

AV? YOU OKAY?

UHNN... T-THERE'S MORE...

WHAT?

TOO MANY--

IS THAT IT?

NOW WITNESS THE FIREPOWER OF THIS FULLY ARMED AND OPERATIONAL--YOU KNOW WHAT, DOESN'T MATTER. YEAH, THAT'S IT.

YOU DON'T SEEM TOO **SURPRISED** BY ALL THIS.

HOW **COULD** I BE? THIS IS THE FOURTH CHITAURI WAVE TO HIT US THIS MONTH.

SEE, THERE'S THE PROBLEM WITH THAT INTERNET. WORD GETS OUT ABOUT THE GOOD BRUNCH SPOTS, SUDDENLY EVERYONE'S SHOWING UP.

I'D TRY TO GET THIS ONE TO TALK, BUT APPARENTLY THIS TYPE DOESN'T HAVE A LANGUAGE. THE **GOOD** NEWS IS WE'RE GETTING A HANDLE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM--

"--THEY'RE PRETTY PREDICTABLE."

GONNA WIPE THEM OUT--THE ALIENS--

WHAT? NO, I JUST CALLED IN--THE INVASION'S ALREADY **OVER.** ALPHA FLIGHT TOOK OUT THE WHOLE WAVE.

NO-- NO, THEY DIDN'T--

THAT WAS JUST THE **START.**

MA'AM! COLONEL DANVERS--

SPECIALIST?

WE'VE PICKED UP A NEW APPROACH, MA'AM.

IT'S--IT'S ANOTHER WAVE, COLONEL.

ANOTHER? SERIOUSLY? HOW BIG--

IT'S-- VERY BIG, MA'AM.

DON'T GET TOO TECHNICAL, SPECIALIST. HOW BIG IS "VERY"?

EASILY TEN TIMES THE SIZE OF THE LAST WAVE.

I'LL CALL THE AVENGERS.

I'LL CALL THE OTHER AVENGERS.

GET EVERYONE WE KNOW UP HERE--STATIONS, PEOPLE! WE'VE GOT INCOMING!

I'VE GOTTA GO. I'VE GOTTA HELP--

NO--NO! YOU ARE NOWHERE NEAR READY--

GONNA HAVE TO BE--

AVRIL! WAIT!

-SIGH- NOBODY EVER WAITS.

PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

WEAPONS READY!

HOW ARE THEY COMING IN SO *FAST?* THEY'RE NOT *NORMALLY* THIS FAST--

PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

BRACE FOR IMPACT!

PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHOA.

SEE? I TOLD YOU.

YEAH, BUT-- WHOA.

WE'RE ALL VERY PROUD.

SHE'S *INCREDIBLE.* THAT KIND OF POWER--

OH, I KNOW. TRUST ME, I GOT PLANS--HOLD ON--AVRIL!

DIRECTOR HILL--

I TOLD YOU, IT'S *MARIA.* NOW, THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET--

GOOD TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, AVRIL, I'M--

I *KNOW* WHO YOU ARE, COLONEL DANVERS. IT'S AN HONOR--

LIKEWISE. I WAS JUST TELLING MARIA--

I NEED YOU TO STEP OUTSIDE.

--SIR?

AGENT KINCAID!

NOW, AGENT. I NEED TO SPEAK TO THESE TWO *ALONE.* YOU CAN WAIT IN THE HALL, I'LL BE OUT SHORTLY.

UH... Y-YES, SIR.

UH-OH, CAROL, I THINK I FEEL A STERN *TALKING-TO* COMING ON--

DID YOU CALL HER?

I THOUGHT YOU CALLED HER!

YOU'RE LYING.

WOULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?

WE HAD A DEAL, MARIA--THAT GIRL IS WIELDING ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS IN THE UNIVERSE. SHE DOESN'T LEAVE THE COMPOUND UNTIL HER TRAINING IS FINISHED.

AND YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT IN ANY POSITION TO MAKE EXECUTIVE DECISIONS ON THAT FRONT--OR ANY FRONT, FOR THAT MATTER.

WAIT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

NOTHING.

LOOK, STEVE--I GET MAYBE SOME KIND OF PROTOCOL WASN'T OBSERVED HERE, BUT--WE WON. AND WHAT THIS KINCAID WOMAN DID, WITHOUT BLINKING AN EYE--WELL, IMAGINE WHAT--

NO. DON'T IMAGINE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STANDING HERE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU. AFTER WHAT WE ALL JUST WENT THROUGH. AFTER WHAT YOU PUT US THROUGH.

BUT HERE WE ARE, NOT EVEN A MONTH LATER--AND YOU'RE ALREADY LOOKING AT ANOTHER YOUNG PERSON WITH ENORMOUS POWERS AND TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO TURN THEM INTO A WEAPON YOU AIM.

WHEN DID THE TWO OF YOU GET SO CARELESS?

LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED TO BRUCE. TO TONY. AND YET NONE OF IT SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN EITHER OF YOU A SECOND'S WORTH OF PAUSE.

YOU JUST RACE TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE ALL OVER AGAIN.

I CAN ACCEPT THAT YOU WERE FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING YOU BELIEVED IN. BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS SUPPOSED TO MEASURE THE COST. OR AT LEAST PRETEND TO CARE. BUT BOTH OF YOU--

YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED A DAMN THING. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

YOU'LL BE IN ANOTHER WAR BEFORE YOU KNOW IT--

"--AND THIS TIME, YOU'LL LOSE."

WILL YOU STAY?

DANIEL...

NO, IT'S JUST--THE CHILDREN. I'M SURE THEY'D LOVE TO SEE YOU.

I DOUBT THAT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA. AND BESIDES, I'M CALLED ELSEWHERE.

I FEEL LIKE I'VE *FAILED* YOU.

HH--NO. WE ALL HAVE OUR PARTS TO PLAY, YOU KNOW THAT BETTER THAN *ANY* OF US. WHAT YOU DO, YOU DO FOR THE GLORY OF HYDRA. I KNOW THAT.

THERE IS A CHANCE THEY'RE RIGHT, THOUGH, ISN'T THERE? YOU WOULD AT LEAST ADMIT THAT.

I TOLD YOU, THE SIGHT HAS NOT REVEALED WHERE THIS LEADS, NO MATTER HOW HARD I'VE ENDEAVORED. BUT I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING I KNOW THEY'RE WRONG ABOUT--

--HITLER IS NOT THE ONE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO *SURE?*

BECAUSE THE ONE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS ALREADY *AMONG* US. TELL ME--

--HOW IS YOUNG STEVEN?

SIR-- CAPTAIN-- DID I--DID I DO SOMETHING ***WRONG*** IN THERE?

-:SIGH:- NO, AGENT, YOU DID ***GREAT*** WORK TODAY. I JUST--PEOPLE AND THEIR PLANS. I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET DRAGGED INTO THAT. YOU'RE MEANT FOR BIGGER THINGS.

I JUST WANTED TO ***HELP,*** SIR.

AND YOU ***DID,*** TO SAY THE LEAST. LOOKS LIKE WENDELL IS TRAINING YOU WELL. NOT SURPRISING, HE'S A GOOD MAN.

YES, HE IS, SIR.

AND THERE'S A CHANCE I FEEL FRUSTRATED BECAUSE I'D LIKE YOUR HELP WITH SOMETHING, TOO. NOT EXACTLY HOLDING TO MY OWN PRINCIPLES THERE.

ANYTHING I CAN DO, SIR.

WELL, IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE GOOD FOR ***BOTH*** OF US, I SUPPOSE--WENDELL'S REPORTS SAID YOU'RE DEVELOPING THE COSMIC AWARENESS. I WAS HOPING YOU COULD USE IT--

--TO HELP ME FIND AN OLD FRIEND.

BUCKY BARNES?

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M--VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HIM RIGHT NOW. THAT HE'S IN SOME TROUBLE. AND I HAD HIM, I WAS-- WE TALKED, BUT--THEN I LOST HIM AGAIN...*

*IN ***THUNDERBOLTS*** #7-8, ON SALE NOW! --TOM

I--I CAN CERTAINLY ***TRY,*** SIR, BUT--I DON'T KNOW IF WENDELL EXPLAINED IT TO YOU--THE AWARENESS, IT ONLY WORKS IF THERE'S SOME KIND OF THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE INVOLVED--

AND THERE IS. THIS IS THE PART THAT PERTAINS TO YOU, TOO. HE HAS A TRAVELING COMPANION--

--THE LITTLE GIRL YOU WERE ONCE CHARGED WITH PROTECTING. THE SENTIENT COSMIC CUBE.

BUCKY HAS ***KOBIK,*** AVRIL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WE ARE BESET BY ENEMIES ON ALL SIDES--ATTEMPTING TO DEPOSE THE RED SKULL AS LEADER OF HYDRA WHILE HIDING YOU WITHIN THE AVENGERS--AND YOU'RE OFF FIGHTING MONSTERS IN SPACE? WHY?

I WANTED TO EVALUATE THEIR PROGRESS, DOCTOR SELVIG. SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

PROGRESS?

THIS LAB-- IT ONCE BELONGED A MAN NAMED ***IVAN KRAGOFF.*** THE ***RED GHOST.*** HE SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE WORKING AS A SCIENTIST FOR THE SOVIET UNION.

AT ONE POINT, HE PRESENTED THE KREMLIN WITH A BRILLIANT PLAN--THE IDEA OF USING A TARGETED ALIEN INVASION TO WINNOW AN OVERPOPULATED WORLD, OR AT LEAST TO GAIN ADVANTAGE ON HIS AMERICAN ENEMIES.

HE HAD EVEN IDENTIFIED THE ALIEN RACE THAT, WITH THE PROPER MOTIVATION, COULD DO THE JOB--

"--THE ***CHITAURI.***"

HIS SUPERIORS DIDN'T HAVE THE NERVE TO FOLLOW THROUGH, BUT IVAN WAS A ***VISIONARY***--HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT AN ATTACK OF A FULL FLEET WOULD DO TO THE WORLD--THE UPHEAVAL-- THE OPENINGS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE IT WOULD CREATE.

THOSE ARE OPENINGS I PLAN TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF IN CARRYING ON HIS WORK.

WAIT--YOU'RE SAYING THE ALIEN INVASION...IS BECAUSE OF ***YOU?*** BUT HOW?

THE CHITAURI ARE SIMPLE-MINDED CREATURES, DOCTOR, BUT THEY'RE DOGGED. NOT TERRIBLY DIFFERENT FROM MANY OF OUR INSECTS.

YOU SEE, THEY'LL TRAVEL MILLIONS OF LIGHT-YEARS, OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE--

"--JUST TO FIND A *QUEEN.*"

WELL, I APPRECIATE THAT SIR, BUT REALLY YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN MORE THAN GENEROUS-- I COULDN'T ASK YOU TO--

YOU SURE?

WELL, I KNOW IT'LL TAKE A LOAD OFF THE WIFE'S MIND. I JUST HAD THE REPAIR GUY OUT, AND-- SORRY? OH, SURE, 'COURSE...

YES, SIR, GOT MY EYES ON THEM RIGHT NOW--

--LOOKS LIKE SHE'S JUST ABOUT READY TO *HATCH.*

THE STORY EXPANDS IN
THUNDERBOLTS #7
ON SALE NOW

NEXT

ZONE